

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
TECHTRIX, INC. CLEANUP
GADSDEN, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA



FACT SHEET - OCTOBER 2024

In October 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will begin cleaning up contamination at the Techtrix, Inc. site (the Site), located at 525 Plainview Street in Gadsden, Alabama. Because cyanide is among the contaminants being cleaned up, residents are urged to review the important site safety information in the box below.

Residents are invited to attend a public meeting on October 15 where EPA and Gadsden/Etowah County Emergency Management (EMA) will explain the cleanup and answer questions. Cleanup updates will be posted on the Site webpage:

www.epa.gov/al/gadsden-al-techtrix

SITE SAFETY

EPA and the Gadsden/Etowah County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) are working together to keep the community safe. The Site has been secured and the hazardous waste is stable, so the risk to the surrounding community is very low. If the waste is mixed or disturbed, cyanide could be released which is extremely hazardous. To maintain stability, the water sprinklers and natural gas have been turned off at the Site and the electrical system has been inspected to reduce the likelihood of a fire starting.

Until the cleanup is complete, the public is asked to not enter the property. The EPA has engaged 24-hour on-site security and added perimeter fencing and security cameras. Cyanide sensors have been placed in the building and are monitored remotely by EPA and the Gadsden/Etowah County EMA for community protection.

PLEASE JOIN US!

The EPA, with support from Gadsden/Etowah County EMA, will have a public meeting about the cleanup plan.

**October 15, 2024
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

Mission Baptist Church
1115 Tuscaloosa Ave
Gadsden, AL



If you wish to be added to the email distribution list to receive Site updates, please email Marjorie Thomas to let her know.



Si conoces de alguna persona que necesite esta información o la reunion trasladada al Español comunícate con la coordinadora de relaciones con la comunidad Marjorie Thomas al thomas.marjorie@epa.gov.

CLEANUP OVERVIEW



The Site includes a 50,000 square foot building, a workshop and a storage area that were used for electroplating and metal finishing. The EPA found contaminants, including cyanide, heavy metals, acids and bases at the Site.



The cleanup will remove these hazardous wastes to protect human health and the environment. The cleanup will include:

- ◆ Identifying chemicals and waste.
- ◆ Shipping waste containers to an approved disposal facility. Specifically, hazardous waste will be transported from the Site directly to an EPA-approved disposal facility using trucks with drivers trained and certified to safely transport this type of waste. The transportation of this waste will be closely monitored by EPA to ensure it is done safely.
- ◆ Excavating contaminated soils. Contaminated soil identified above EPA's cleanup levels will be removed and disposed of in an EPA-approved landfill.



The cleanup is expected to begin in October 2024 and last approximately four months. During the cleanup, there will be more traffic and activity at the Site. Work will begin early in the morning and end late in the evening.

HISTORY

In 2021, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) conducted a site inspection after receiving a complaint about improper storage and management of hazardous waste. Since then, EPA conducted further sampling and investigations. An EPA Administrative Order on Consent was issued to Techtrix, Inc. in August of 2021 directing the company to properly store their products and begin disposing of the wastes on site.

After the owner of the Site passed away in March 2024, the estate could not complete the required closure actions for the facility, and it became necessary for the EPA to conduct the cleanup. In July 2024, the EPA conducted a site assessment, collecting multiple samples of the wastes and soil outside the facility.

A follow-up Site visit in early August revealed several damaged tanks that were leaking. In mid-August, EPA transferred the liquid wastes from the tanks into secure containers and put robust safety measures in place while plans to permanently clean up the Site were being made.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cleanup updates will be posted on the Site webpage:

www.epa.gov/al/gadsden-al-techtrix

You may also contact:

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